



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Grand Canyon National Park  
P.O. Box 129  
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129

July 23, 2001

Dear Interested Party:

Reference: Grand Canyon National Park, Construction of New Mule Barn and Government Housing EA

Subject: Comments on proposed projects (general scoping)

The National Park Service is seeking public input on the proposed construction of a new concessions mule barn and construction of government housing to be made available to non-government employees of Grand Canyon National Park. The following actions are intended:

- **Construction of New Mule Barn** – A new mule barn for the concessioners would be constructed near the intersection of Village Loop Road and West Rim Drive in Grand Canyon Village. The project would enhance the facilities available for caring for the mules and includes the construction of a new 13,256 square foot mule barn facility consisting of a veterinary service area, saddlery, feed storage, blacksmith and leathersmith shops, offices, and restrooms. A manager/security housing of 1,400 square feet and a 0.5-acre mule corral would also be constructed as part of the new facility. In addition, a trail from the mule barn facility to Bright Angel Trailhead Corral would be developed in a disturbed area and would tie directly into the existing trail at a point between the railroad tracks and Village Loop Road. The Historic Mule Barn and Blacksmith Shop buildings would remain where they are currently located in the powerhouse area and, following rehabilitation, become an integral part of the Heritage Education Campus – an area, that when completed, will offer visitors in-depth opportunities for interpretive and environmental education.
- **Construction of Government Housing** – The proposed housing facility would consist of the construction of two two-story apartment buildings consisting of a total of 16 apartments, 32 paved parking spaces (2 handicap spaces), and associated utility and infrastructure connections. The apartments would be built on the east side of the intersection of Mohave Street and Mohave Court, south of Albright Street, on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. This housing would be made available to non-government employees of the park.

The construction of the new mule barn and the construction of the government apartments are in accordance with the Park's General Management Plan (pages 32, 35, and 36). Implementation of these actions will provide for the development of the Heritage Education Campus in the powerhouse area, needed required housing in the Village area, and comply with environmental laws and regulations.

To determine environmental consequences, the National Park Service will be preparing an environmental assessment for these proposed projects and would like to hear your comments and concerns related to the proposed actions. The Park welcomes your participation in understanding these management actions and developing alternative actions. Issues identified to date include effects to water quality, soil, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and visitor experience.

Please send your comments to: Superintendent, ATTN: Sara White, Compliance Officer, Grand Canyon National Park, PO Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ, 86023. Or, send an e-mail reply to: Sara\_White@nps.gov.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than **August 24, 2001**. If you have any questions regarding the projects, please call Sara White at 928-638-7956.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Alston  
Superintendent